

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

July 31, 2014

**5:30 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

**Present:** Mayor James Calnon, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Paul O'Connell (W4), Becky Kasper (W5), Joshua Kretser (W6)

**Absent:**

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**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on July 17, 2014 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

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**2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the weeks ending July 23, 2014 in the amount of \$ 286,056.27 and July 30, 2014 in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

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**3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the weeks of July 17 – July 30, 2014
- Report from the Building Inspector's office July 29, 2014
- Report of the Work Session of the Common Council held on June 26, 2014
- Report of the Work Session of the Common Council held on July 10, 2014
- Report of Public Hearing held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on July 21, 2014

**RESOLVED:** That the reports as listed are hereby ordered received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

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**4. CORRESPONDENCE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None**

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**5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills Audited by the Common Council for the weeks ending July 25, 2014 in the amount of \$ 2,504,609.27 and August 1, 2014 in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

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**6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:**

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**7. OTHER ITEMS:**

**A. Motion to remove item 7A from the Table.**

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves establishing and appointing members of a City of Plattsburgh Oil Train Task Force.

**WHEREAS,** many citizens in Plattsburgh are concerned about the new push by the fossil fuel industry to transport Bakken and Tar Sands Crude via rail throughout our region; and

**WHEREAS,** refineries in Albany have expanded to accommodate an even greater volume of these and other dangerous products; and

**WHEREAS,** New York Governor Andrew Cuomo also recognizes the risk of transporting volatile crude by rail in passing Executive Order #125 directing New York State agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of crude rail transport safety procedures and emergency response preparedness and Albany County, NY issued a moratorium on crude increases at the Port of Albany pending a public health investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the last few years have seen a dramatic rise in rail crude transport nationwide, and more crude oil was spilled in U.S. rail accidents in 2013 than the preceding four decades, amounting to more than 1.15 million gallons in 2013. Most tragically in July 2013, 72 tanker cars loaded with 2 million gallons of flammable crude oil derailed in Lac-Mégantic, Canada, causing explosions that killed 47 people, destroyed dozens of buildings, and caused over \$1 billion in damages; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Transportation Safety Board and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration recently acknowledged the failure to appropriately classify the contents of crude oil shipments to reflect the hazardous and highly flammable nature of the substances being transported by rail and the devastating consequences of a crude oil rail accident including loss of life, property and environmental damage, and thus made recommendations to avoid urban areas when transporting crude, and to improve rail safety regulations for crude oil transport, including worse-case scenario emergency response plans; and

**WHEREAS**, increased rail crude oil traffic in the North Country corridor will lead to an increase in diesel emissions in communities along rail lines, and exposure to particulate matter from diesel engines has been linked to impaired pulmonary development in adolescents; increased cardiopulmonary mortality; measurable pulmonary inflammation; increased severity and frequency of asthma attacks, emergency room visits, and hospital admissions in children; increased rates of heart attacks and strokes in adults; increased risk of cancer; and increased asthma and lung disease in children; and

**WHEREAS**, crude oil, like that coming from the Bakken shale reservoir, is known to be volatile, highly flammable, and contain elevated concentrations of benzene, a potent carcinogen, and

**WHEREAS**, trains delivering crude oil traveling through the North Country will follow routes adjacent to Lake Champlain and various waterways, posing a serious threat to these ecosystems, and to Northern New York's agricultural irrigation and drinking water supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, given the record of crude-oil rail accidents in recent years, a train accident or derailment could have catastrophic effects if it occurred in any populated area; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, when environmental accidents do occur, oil companies spend years in litigation over damages as strategy to undercut payments to affected communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impacts of crude oil train traffic through the North Country and other parts of Eastern New York, in addition to the cumulative upstream and downstream greenhouse gas impacts of these fossil fuels, should analyzed prior to the transport of any of these hazardous materials through our communities, now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Plattsburgh City Council establishes an Oil Train Task Force made up of stakeholders that represent our community's diversity in order to further research this transport of hazardous materials through our region and to recommend to the Mayor and Council actions that will safeguard and educate our citizens; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Oil Train Task Force, though it will convene independently, will take no independent action, but will rather report exclusively and directly to the Mayor and Common Council.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion:

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up Action:

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that SUNY Police to divert and direct one-way traffic in a westerly direction (as in past school years) on Rugar St between the Myers Building and Sanborn Ave on August 23, 2014 from 7am to 7pm.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion:

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up Action:

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**C. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves to adjust amounts for the Sewer Fund 2014 Budget in the WPCP Department as follows:

Decrease Appropriation: BOD Dewatering Sludge	5-58131151-4430	\$20,900.00
SS Dewatering Sludge	5-58132151-4430	\$34,100.00
Increase Appropriation: Flow Raw Waste Pumping	5-8130132-4334	\$15,000.00
Flow Aeration	5-8130135-4334	\$10,000.00
BOD Aeration	5-8131135-4334	\$15,000.00
BOD Dewatering Sludge	5-8131151-4334	\$ 5,700.00
SS Dewatering Sludge	5-8132151-4334	\$ 9,300.00

This request provides for a transfer within the 2014 Sewer Budget for payment of parts and Mechanical supplies for the WPCP Department in various waste processing costs centers. The transfer to the parts and mechanical supplies accounts is being made from two contract service account line items, both within the WPCP Department, to provide the funding for the under-budgeted appropriations. The transfer leaves the 2014 Sewer Fund Budget for total appropriations unchanged.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion:

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up Action:

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**D. RESOLVED:** Request from the City Chamberlain to consider approval of the sale of two properties auctioned on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, for the purpose of collecting delinquent property taxes, provided the attached auction results are acceptable to the Common Council for the transfer of these properties to their respective bidders.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion:

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up Action:

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**8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None**

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**9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:**

1. In accordance to the request therefore, the Mayor is authorized to execute a Settlement with Adirondack Advertising, LLC as attached.

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**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

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**11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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Motion to Adjourn by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll call Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** \_\_\_\_\_